Edwin Keith Thomson

LATE A REPRESENTATIVE FROM
WYOMING

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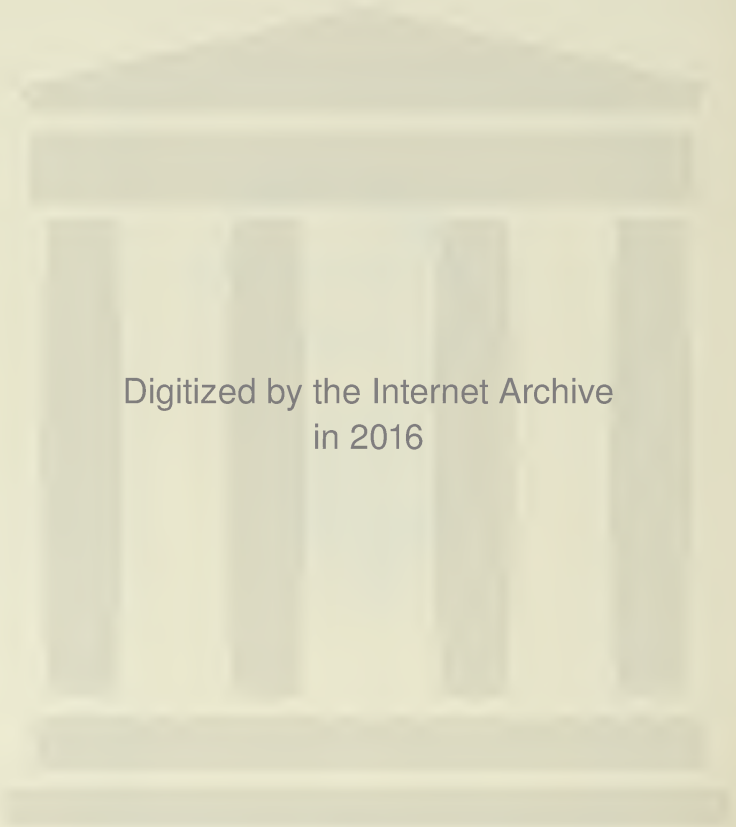
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Memorial Services

HELD IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND SENATE
OF THE UNITED STATES, TOGETHER WITH
REMARKS PRESENTED IN EULOGY OF

Edwin Keith Thomson

LATE A REPRESENTATIVE FROM
WYOMING

Eighty-sixth Congress
Second Session

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Biography

Edwin Keith Thomson was born in New Castle, Weston County, Wyo., February 8, 1919; attended the public schools in Beulah, Wyo., and Spearfish, S. Dak.; was graduated from the University of Wyoming Law School in 1941; during World War II was called to active duty on March 24, 1941; commanded Second Battalion, 362d Infantry Regiment, 91st Division; released from active duty as a lieutenant colonel on January 24, 1946; awarded Combat Infantryman's Badge, Purple Heart, Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal, and the Italian Cross of Valor; was admitted to the bar in 1941 and commenced the practice of law in Cheyenne, Wyo., in February 1946; delegate to the Republican National Convention in 1952; member of the State house of representatives 1952–1954; elected as a Republican to the Eighty-fourth, Eighty-fifth, and Eighty-sixth Congresses and served from January 3, 1955, until his death; did not seek renomination to the Eighty-seventh Congress but was elected to the United States Senate on November 8, 1960, for the term commencing January 3, 1961; died in Cody, Wyo., December 9, 1960; interment in Arlington National Cemetery, Fort Myer, Va.

Memorial Services
for
Edwin Keith Thomson

Proceedings in the House

TUESDAY, *January 3, 1961.*

Mr. HALLECK. Mr. Speaker, I offer a resolution and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution (H. Res. 19) as follows:

Resolved, That the House has heard with profound sorrow of the death of the Honorable KEITH THOMSON, a Representative of the State of Wyoming.

Resolved, That the Clerk communicate these resolutions to the Senate and transmit a copy thereof to the family of the deceased.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Mr. McCORMACK. Mr. Speaker, as a further mark of respect to the memory of the deceased, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, January 4, 1961, at 12 o'clock noon.

WEDNESDAY, *January 4, 1961.*

A message from the Senate by Mr. Carrell, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate had passed the following resolution (S. Res. 8):

Resolved, That the Senate has heard with profound sorrow and deep regret the announcement of the death of the Honorable KEITH THOMSON, late a Senator-elect from the State of Wyoming.

Resolved, That the Secretary communicate these resolutions to the House of Representatives and transmit a copy thereof to the family of the deceased.

Resolved, That as a further mark of respect to the memory of the deceased the Senate, at the conclusion of its business today, do adjourn.

Remarks by Representative Harrison

Of Wyoming

Mr. HARRISON. Mr. Speaker, we in Wyoming have lost an outstanding citizen, a dedicated public servant, and a close friend in the sudden death of Senator-elect KEITH THOMSON on December 9. It was a shock to all of us to realize we had lost one whom we had come to count on so much. The loss to his family was even greater. They lost a loving husband and father, one whom they will always remember with love and affection and with pride because of his achievements and the esteem in which he was held by all.

Those of you who served with him during his 6 years of service in this body, representing the State of Wyoming, know that he worked with only one thought in mind—that of serving his State and country ably and well. Not only was he recognized in this body and elsewhere for his outstanding abilities, but he was also especially known for his unwavering dedication to those principles in which he believed and for which he fought.

As a young man of humble beginnings, he devoted himself to long hours of hard work and to uncomplaining self-denial and sacrifice to rise to a position of influence, prominence, and esteem. He was a man of action, a doer; a man of intensity, striving relentlessly to accomplish worthwhile things for the people of Wyoming and of the Nation.

His record as a combat officer in the Armed Forces of his country in World War II, and as a husband and father shows the same dedication to the highest ideals of love and service.

I was particularly impressed with the remarks made by the Reverend John M. Pattison, his pastor and friend, at the services for KEITH in Cheyenne, Wyo. Dr. Pattison expresses better than I can the love and affection felt by all of us for KEITH THOMSON.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the remarks of the Reverend John M. Pattison be included.

ADDRESS GIVEN AT THE FUNERAL OF HON. KEITH THOMSON, CONGRESSMAN FROM WYOMING, AND SENATOR-ELECT FROM WYOMING, IN FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, CHEYENNE, WYO., BY THE REVEREND DR. JOHN M. PATTISON, DECEMBER 13, 1960

The news of the sudden death of my esteemed friend and public servant KEITH THOMSON came as a hammer blow. It left me stunned and shocked. It had a paralytic effect upon me and my family. I feel sure that most people throughout the region felt the same way as I did when they first learned the tragic news. A veritable pall of gloom settled over our hearts and over the population of our State.

His sudden passing, in the prime of life and when he had just reached a plateau in his life which gave promise of a long and distinguished career in our national life and of service to the State he so much loved, is difficult to understand.

I knew the deceased and his family most intimately. It was my good pleasure to be pastor here when the family was received into the fellowship and communion of this church. I followed his meteoric rise to fame with much satisfaction, and rejoiced with him in every honor which came to him and in all the good fortune which he was able to attain.

He served as a member of our board of deacons before he was elected to Congress and had to move from our city. He was a constant and loyal member of the Sunday congregation and good supporter of his parish. We exchanged letters frequently during the years he was in Washington, and often we were together at social functions when he was in our city visiting his old friends.

The career of this young man of 41 years has come altogether too soon to its close. During those short years of his life he reached the supremacy of achievement in 41 years that would cover twice those years in experience and accomplishment of most people.

One of KEITH'S good friends and an honored citizen of our State wrote this and gave it to me:

"His humble beginning as a cowboy soon became obscured by his appearance in World War II as the youngest and ablest infantry officer of his rank in the entire U.S. Army. On his return to civil life his brilliance in the legal profession brought local and national recognition.

"He entered the field of politics with equal success—he became a State legislator, then Congressman for 3 terms—then U.S. Senator-elect by one of the greatest tributes ever paid by an appreciative electorate in the State. National recognition of his talents was of such magnitude that many offers for his services were

made—and refused—for he had become dedicated to service for the people of Wyoming and the cause of private enterprise.

"He drove himself relentlessly each day and night to justify the confidence of his electorate. He once said, 'To be a good Congressman requires 18 hours a day,' and he gave that and more. Possibly that is why we are sorrowing together today in the loss of a friend who meant much to the State and the Nation.

"Truly, a great man, who has given every ounce of devotion and application of his brilliant mind to the multiple problems that confront our Republic, has laid his life on the altar of sacrifice for those he so ably represented.

"His keen mind that grasped instantly the tactics of military warfare, of litigation, and of national policies is now at rest. We have lost one who was said, 'Knew most about missiles, including the scientists themselves'—one who had compassion and kindness, firmness and conviction—one who expressed the thoughts and ideals of people from all walks of life—because he had served in all of them in his meteoric career from cowboy to U.S. Senator-elect.

"We wonder how Divine Providence could strike down one who had reached a plateau of his career that looked forward to a distant horizon of realization of his objectives. Some day we will know. Suffice it to say now that he has brought inspiration, hope and renewed courage to those who have had their faith restored and their individual dignity honored.

"Throughout this brief career KEITH had the support and encouragement of a lovely wife and family; for whom, with others, he has created a nation of security, promise, opportunity and peace."

We all know that KEITH was an indefatigable worker. He drove himself relentlessly day and night. No matter what he undertook he threw himself into the task with all his ability, force and capacity. He gave every ounce of his strength and the application of his keen and brilliant mind to the endless problems that confront our Nation in this hour. As one of his friends said so ably: "He has laid down his life on the altar of sacrifice for those he so capably represented."

KEITH was not only a devoted public servant but also a family man. Even in the endless rush of such a busy life as that which he lived, he always found time for his wife and boys. His love and affection for his family was outstanding, and it was a source of much regret to him that his position in life took so much time away from his growing boys. I would say in this connection that his wife was constantly at his side, giving him her loyal support, encouragement, and inspiration. She shared with him his success, she also shared in his disappointments when they came, as they

always do come in the life of a public servant. They were a happy couple, and no home could have been more ideal than theirs.

All of us realize that Wyoming has lost one of its finest young men—yes, one of its great statesmen. But we also know that his wife and family have lost a wonderful husband and a loving father. The loss which these have sustained in this sudden death cannot be filled either by election or appointment, because no one on earth can fill the vacancy in the lives of these who were closest to him.

We rejoice today in our Christian faith in life eternal and in the knowledge that, "To be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord."

Our religious faith and our basic beliefs teach us that life, the true life of the soul, is not terminated by physical death. KEITH has laid aside his physical form, he has gone from us in life's prime, but his spirit is with God who gave it.

Life must never be estimated, or its worth measured, by longevity. It is wonderful to live a long and useful life. Yet, we know that there are some, like our deceased friend, who live more in 40 years than some others live in 9 decades. Again I say, he lived intensely, he lived enthusiastically, he lived and served and attained great heights. Now he lives a fuller, happier and more abundant life than any of us can ever know on this earth.

No word of mine can add to or detract from the luster of his name, nor from the high opinion which all people had who knew him. His life is his greatest eulogy, and his achievements will live as a memorial unto him for ever.

I know that all of you join with me in expressing our sincere and deep sympathy with Mrs. Thomson, her boys, the parents and all other members of the bereaved family in the loss which they have sustained. Our prayers will ascend on their behalf, that the peace of God which passes all understanding may keep their hearts and minds now and always.

Mr. HARRISON. Mr. Speaker, the passing of KEITH THOMSON will be deeply felt by all of us. His life and his achievements will be an inspiration and our love and affection go out to his loving family who have lost so much. We will miss him here in the House, and Wyoming will lose the services of an outstanding citizen as their Senator.

Remarks by Representative Halleck

Of Indiana

Mr. HALLECK. Mr. Speaker, it is always a sad occasion for all of us when the time comes to pay our last respects to the memory of a colleague who is no longer with us.

Usually there is some small consolation in the fact that death has come only after a long and honorable career of service. But there is no such consolation as we speak here now of the life and achievements of KEITH THOMSON, for he left us far too young in years. His was truly an untimely death. It was untimely because it took from the scene of the very important affairs of this great Republic of ours a young man of great promise.

During his three terms in the House KEITH THOMSON distinguished himself as a man of unusual diligence who took his responsibilities with the utmost seriousness. His was a rare combination of energy, talent, and personal charm that won for him widespread admiration and respect. KEITH THOMSON gave to the Congress the same courage that earned him citations for bravery as a young combat officer in World War II. He brought with him to the Congress the same dedication to public service that won for him high honors as a citizen in his hometown of Cheyenne.

His many friends here, while sorry to see him leaving our ranks for a seat in the other body, were happy and proud of his success in the recent election.

Those of us who knew him best were certain that KEITH THOMSON was about to embark on a new series of achievements for the people of Wyoming and the Nation.

It is not for us to question the wisdom of a Divine Providence in mourning the death of our friend.

Having visited with KEITH in Wyoming on several occasions in recent years I feel a particularly personal sense of

loss in his passing. KEITH THOMSON'S was indeed a bright star, a star prematurely dimmed by a power that is above us all.

In their bereavement I offer my deepest sympathy to Mrs. Thomson and her fine sons and to all of KEITH'S family and friends.

Remarks by Representative Hoeven

Of Iowa

Mr. HOEVEN. Mr. Speaker, KEITH THOMSON was one of the best Congressmen I have ever known. I was impressed with him when he first became a Member of the House of Representatives 6 years ago. I saw in him a man of integrity who was wholly devoted to his job. He was a thorough student of legislation, and I always felt KEITH knew what he was talking about when he took the floor.

It was difficult for us to understand why such a young man, perhaps at the apex of his career, should so suddenly be taken from us. We know it was God's will and so must be reconciled to the loss that is ours. KEITH THOMSON was loved and respected by all those who knew him and we shall miss him in the days ahead. We take consolation in the fact that he served well his day and generation and has left behind him only happy memories of our association together. Mrs. Hoeven joins me in extending our deepest sympathy to Mrs. Thomson and all members of the family.

Remarks by Representative Brown

Of Ohio

Mr. BROWN. Mr. Speaker, it is difficult to understand why divine providence in its wisdom sees fit to take from us, and from our beloved Republic, a man of the abilities, the stature, and the capacities of KEITH THOMSON. Those of us who were privileged to serve in the Congress with him know something of his character, and of his good work in behalf of this country of ours. He not only served his Nation in time of peace, when he battled for the principles that have made this country great and strong, but he also served with great distinction on the battlefields of World War II defending this Nation against its foreign enemies.

He was honored by the people of his State by election last November to the Senate of the United States, an honor that seldom comes to a young man of his age. Then, suddenly, death struck him down.

His passing is not only a loss to Wyoming, but a great loss for all the people of America, regardless of political affiliation. We, of Ohio, especially feel that in the passing of KEITH THOMSON, those of us who have worked with him have lost a great friend and a most able leader.

Remarks by Representative Mahon

Of Texas

Mr. MAHON. Mr. Speaker, I wish to join with my colleagues in paying tribute to the memory of KEITH THOMSON. KEITH THOMSON fought for our country with great valor in time of war. When he came to the Congress, he continued to fight for the country in a different area of endeavor. He wanted to keep this country strong and free. He became a member of the Subcommittee on Defense Appropriations, and in that capacity he worked hard to keep this country strong and free. I think I have never known a man who worked with greater dedication and intensity than KEITH THOMSON. He had the admiration and respect of those of us who worked with him on this important assignment. He had his feet on the ground, and his heart was with the best interest of our Nation. He put the best interest of the country above partisan considerations. He was able and effective in his work.

Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to join my colleagues in paying tribute to the memory of so fine a man as KEITH THOMSON, and I also want to join with you in words of sympathy for his charming wife and family.

Remarks by Representative Arends

Of Illinois

Mr. ARENDS. Mr. Speaker, with my colleagues, I, too, rise to express my deep regrets over the passing of a wonderful man, KEITH THOMSON.

While with my family on a southern vacation during the holidays, I picked up a newspaper to note his untimely passing. This shocked me because here was a young man, vigorous, energetic, so full of life, yet at the age of 40 years taken from us at the height of his career.

In the 6 years he was a Member of this body I had close association with him. As the party whip it was always a pleasure to sit down and talk with him about pending issues under discussion and to be voted on. He often presented fresh ideas. He invariably had something new to offer. It was enlightening to get his thinking as he approached what he was about to do on various questions.

I knew of no man I would rather call a friend than KEITH THOMSON. Having served his Nation on the battlefield and in the House of Representatives, he was elected U.S. Senator last November. He was a man of real ability and felt the Senate would provide him with a larger opportunity for service to his State and the country.

To his wonderful family, his wife and his boys, I express my heartfelt sympathy. May God bless them in their time of sorrow.

Remarks by Representative Sikes

Of Florida

Mr. SIKES. Mr. Speaker, it was with a sense of profound shock that I learned of the death of KEITH THOMSON. Here was a dynamic personality cut down at the very threshold of his greatest potentialities. He was one of America's great young leaders. Here was a man who enjoyed the confidence and friendship of his colleagues on both sides of the aisle. It was my pleasure to serve with him on the Committee on Appropriations and on the Defense Subcommittee of that great committee. He was always fair, objective, and able, and his contributions were very important to the work of the committee and the Congress. It has been my privilege to visit in his home and to enjoy the warm hospitality which was always extended there. I considered him a close personal friend whom I shall miss very much indeed. I know his family, and I share in their grief. I extend my earnest and heartfelt sympathy to each of them in the great loss which they and our Nation have sustained.

Remarks by Representative Aspinall

Of Colorado

Mr. ASPINALL. Mr. Speaker, I should like to join my colleagues in paying tribute to the life and unselfish services of the late KEITH THOMSON of Wyoming. I was shocked when I heard the news of his untimely death, which cut short an outstanding career at a time when our distinguished colleague was about to enter on a new and challenging phase of that career. Our late coworker served as a colleague on the House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs for a number of years and I came to know him there for his sincerity in working for what be believed was right and for his fairness in considering the views of those who might happen to differ with him.

In the last session of the 86th Congress, it was KEITH THOMSON who contributed greatly to the successful work of the House in amending the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920. This was a service of love and dedication for he was at that time a member of the Committee on Appropriations rather than a member of the committee handling the legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I am sure that all my colleagues on the Interior and Insular Affairs Committee, and my fellow Members of the House from the Rocky Mountain area especially and the Nation generally, join in expressing our heartfelt sorrow at the loss of a great public servant from the West. Mrs. Aspinall and I extend our heartfelt sympathy to Mrs. Thomson and the boys in their loss of a fine husband and a proud father.

Remarks by Representative Betts

Of Ohio

Mr. BETTS. Mr. Speaker, the death of KEITH THOMSON removes from our midst a talented legislator with great promise of a long career of public service. It is rare to find one so young who has achieved promise in so many fields as our former colleague. An outstanding military record, a successful law practice, and a brilliant record in the House of Representatives, marked him as a man destined for leadership in the Senate to which he had been elected.

I was shocked to hear of his untimely passing and I am saddened at his loss not only because he was a distinguished public servant, but because he was a close personal friend. I wish to join my colleagues in paying tribute to KEITH THOMSON as one who gave much to his country and express my deepest sympathy to his wife and family.

Remarks by Representative Flynt

Of Georgia

Mr. FLYNT. Mr. Speaker, it is with a feeling of deep sorrow that I join the gentleman from Wyoming and our other colleagues in paying tribute to the memory of KEITH THOMSON.

KEITH THOMSON and I came to Congress within a few months of each other. We, as well as our families, became warm personal friends. Geographically we are separated by many thousands of miles; politically we sat on opposite sides of the aisle in the House of Representatives, and yet I know I gained a great deal from working with him as a Member of this body. He was an able, conscientious, and hard-working Member of the House.

KEITH THOMSON was a distinguished soldier in time of war; KEITH THOMSON was an outstanding citizen and public servant in time of peace. I like to think that his native State of Wyoming is a better place because of the contributions he made during his lifetime. He was the kind of man who inspires the confidence of his fellows in this body. He was a devoted husband and father.

His State has lost a distinguished son. We have lost a fine and able colleague. Our Nation has lost a loyal and patriotic citizen.

Mrs. Flynt joins me in extending to Mrs. Thomson and her sons our heartfelt sympathy.

Remarks by Representative Minshall

Of Ohio

Mr. MINSHALL. Mr. Speaker, last November 9, when the election results were made known, I looked forward to rising in the House and paying tribute to a valued friend who, as the 87th Congress convened, would be taking his seat in the U.S. Senate. It still seems incredible that the tribute I make today is not one of heartfelt good wishes to a strong young soldier going forward in the cause of freedom.

During World War II, KEITH THOMSON fought, with many honors, to preserve American liberty. Returning home, he recognized the need of fighting to assure an American future of freedom and vitality firmly anchored on the steadfast rock of our Constitution. With the vigor of his youth, the brilliance of his insight into historic truths, he was well armed to do battle for the living Constitution.

I never knew KEITH THOMSON to qualify, or apologize for, his faith in the continued ability of Americans to determine freely their own and their Nation's destinies. I never knew KEITH THOMSON to bow to political expediency. And I knew KEITH THOMSON well. We met as freshmen in the 84th Congress, were active members of the 84th Club. At the beginning of the 86th Congress, both of us were named to the House Committee on Appropriations and sat next to one another in the Defense Department Subcommittee. KEITH THOMSON was a skilled and imaginative legislator, diligent in performing his duties. He was a warm and loyal friend.

No man is without his faults. KEITH THOMSON's only fault was that he worked too hard. It cost our Nation a great leader.

KEITH THOMSON died in the triumph of knowing that the citizens of his State of Wyoming had given him an overwhelming mandate to carry the battle for freedom to the

U.S. Senate. He died in the knowledge that his was a righteous and a live cause. He leaves a living memorial. In his brief 41 years, this remarkable young man wrote a noble record of courage and faith in the United States which will inspire men to carry his battleflag so long as American liberty is cherished.

To Thyra Thomson, his charming wife, who stood so closely at his side in all his endeavors, and to his three sons, Mrs. Minshall and I extend our deepest sympathies in a loss we deeply share.

Remarks by Representative Taber

Of New York

Mr. TABER. Mr. Speaker, when KEITH THOMSON became a member of the Committee on Appropriations we put him to work upon the most important measures that the Appropriations Committee has to handle, namely, the military establishments appropriation bill.

Mr. THOMSON took a very active part in the hearings that we held, and I believe that his work did more than anything else to clear up the missile situation with which our country was and is faced.

He went along to other subjects that came before that committee and did a magnificent job.

In my opinion, his was one of the most brilliant intellects I have ever seen. The energy and the foresight that KEITH THOMSON had made him an exceedingly valuable Member of the Congress. We lose too many Members of that kind.

Remarks by Representative Chenoweth

Of Colorado

Mr. CHENOWETH. Mr. Speaker, I wish to join in paying tribute to our departed colleague, KEITH THOMSON. I was in my district when I learned of his untimely passing from a friend who said he heard the report over the radio. I thought it was a mistake, and I could not believe it was true.

I was greatly shocked and saddened over the passing of KEITH THOMSON. He had enjoyed a brilliant career. I enjoyed my association with KEITH THOMSON and was happy to have him as a friend. We had many visits together on matters of mutual interest to Colorado and Wyoming. KEITH did a tremendous job in looking after the interests of the people of his State. I have never seen a more devoted public servant.

I remember when KEITH came to Congress, and how anxious he was to be a good Congressman. He was diligent in all that he did, and I have never seen a harder worker.

I recall that KEITH was interested in oil and gas matters that particularly affected his State of Wyoming. I remember how thoroughly he prepared his statements on legislation which he presented, and which was passed by Congress. He spent a great deal of time and effort in making sure that he presented all of the facts to the committee and to the House. KEITH took great pride in his work, and was enthusiastic in all that he did.

KEITH was also interested in matters relating to agriculture, and I recall his concern over the extension of the Sugar Act in the closing days of the 86th Congress.

There can be no better proof of esteem in which he was held by his people than the splendid vote of confidence he received last November when he was elected to the U.S.

Senate. I never saw KEITH after the election, but he must have been very proud over that vote.

KEITH THOMSON was a great American. He was fearless, and he was independent. He did what he thought was right regardless of what others might think. We need more men like KEITH THOMSON in public life today.

Mrs. Chenoweth joins me in extending our deep personal sympathy to Mrs. Thomson and the family.

Remarks by Representative Boland

Of Massachusetts

Mr. BOLAND. Mr. Speaker, I served with KEITH THOMSON on the Committee on Appropriations. In my judgment he was indeed the perfect public servant. Wrapped up in his personality and character were all of the attributes that go to make up an outstanding legislator. He did his job thoroughly, with great ability, absolutely devoid of partisan blindness, his incisiveness was a delight to behold.

Wyoming can be proud, so very proud, of the magnificent, indelible impression he left on the minds and hearts of all those with whom he served in this House and all those he met in his lifetime. The Nation can be proud of the great public service he rendered during his years in the war, his years in the service of the State of Wyoming, and his all too short career here in Washington.

I am privileged to join in this eloquent and moving tribute to a very great and dedicated American. I express my deepest sympathy to his loving wife and devoted children.

Remarks by Representative Rogers

Of Colorado

Mr. ROGERS. Mr. Speaker, the sudden and untimely death of our colleague, the Honorable KEITH THOMSON, was indeed a shock to the Nation and particularly to us in the West. He had made his mark in the Halls of Congress. He was energetic, a hard worker, and was determined to represent the good people of the State of Wyoming. Wyoming and the rest of the Nation will miss him in the future. I extend my sympathy to Mrs. Thomson and the family.

Remarks by Representative Adair

Of Indiana

Mr. ADAIR. Mr. Speaker, like my colleagues, I was shocked to learn of the death of KEITH THOMSON. He was a young man, full of vigor and activity, and was esteemed most highly by all who knew him. His work here was of the highest quality. He was diligent, active, forthright; a great legislator. We were proud and happy when he was elected to the Senate of the United States and wished him a great career there. He will be missed here. He will be missed in Wyoming. He will be missed wherever people knew him.

Mrs. Adair and I express our most sincere sympathy to his wonderful family.

Remarks by Representative Whitten

Of Mississippi

Mr. WHITTEN. Mr. Speaker, I wish to join my colleagues in the expressions that have been made here today with regard to our late friend, KEITH THOMSON. It was my privilege to serve with KEITH on the Committee on Appropriations and on the same subcommittee. While he was a loyal party man, he was first of all an American, and as an American he was interested always in his own ideas as to what was sound, and he had the courage to pursue those views to the end. It is not given to us mortals to understand why a man of his age should be taken, but in comfort, perhaps, we can recall the words that have been said before: It is given to some men to do far greater work in a short period of years than it is to others who may live twice as long. Truly it can be said that KEITH THOMSON accomplished more and set as fine an example for the rest of us in the Congress and in these United States in 41 years than many people have in 82. To his beloved family we extend our deepest sympathy. To his boys we say that no father could have left a finer example, and all can take comfort in the good deeds that KEITH THOMSON did. Truly, in a short period, he set a high standard for those that might live twice as long.

Remarks by Representative Baldwin

Of California

Mr. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, it was my privilege to come to the Congress in the same year that KEITH THOMSON came here. I soon found that he was one of the men that I automatically wanted to know better, because he was that kind of person. We had the opportunity to begin to learn the ropes; to learn the operations of Congress together. I came to respect KEITH THOMSON very greatly because of the fact he was the type of man that he was. In the 6 years he served here in the House he demonstrated to all the Members what an effective job a person can do to represent the people of his State and of the Nation. He never worried about time, because time was no object except to serve the people of his district and the people of the Nation. I think all of us came to respect him for his devoted feeling toward his country. Mrs. Baldwin joins me in expressing our deepest sympathy to Mrs. Thomson and her children in their great loss.

Remarks by Representative Bailey

Of West Virginia

Mr. BAILEY. Mr. Speaker, I feel I would be remiss in my duties as a Member of this great legislative body if I did not join my colleagues in paying tribute to this great, late resident of the State of Wyoming. On his arrival in Washington 6 years ago, and on his appearance on the floor of the House, he immediately alined himself with a large group of the Congress interested in making some basic changes in our trade policies. He was sincere and devoted to this idea during his entire service in the House. The fact that the good people of his State placed their confidence in him in the recent election in electing him to membership in the other body is proof of the greatness of this man. I want to join my other colleagues in extending my sincere sympathy to Mrs. Thomson and the children.

Remarks by Representative Pelly

Of Washington

Mr. PELLY. Mr. Speaker, I wish to join with my colleagues in tribute to KEITH THOMSON. During his three terms in the House of Representatives he gave us ample opportunity to know that both on account of legislative ability and qualities of mind he was destined for a successful and useful future political career.

We admired his talents; we respected his personal character and we held him dear as a friend. Everything about KEITH, his steadfastness in support of his convictions, his unwavering determination in behalf of those ideas and ideals in which he believed, seemed to single him out for successful public service to a degree seldom given to younger men in political life.

Especially I recall my association with KEITH on the House Republican policy committee. There so often he expressed his views and forcefully upheld his always strong convictions. There, I remember it was I first heard him confirm his intention to seek a seat in the U.S. Senate. Nor have I forgotten my immediate reaction. It was that if elected no one of the younger Members of the House could more capably serve in that high office. I thought at once of what a splendid contribution KEITH would make there to the national welfare.

Mr. Speaker, I am certain that the Members of the House, whenever they listened to KEITH as he spoke in this Chamber, must have felt, as I did, his force and vigor and logic in discussing a cause close to his heart. That I generally agreed with him in controversial issues may have added to my high opinion, but truly I believe those not sharing his views respected him equally for his high intellectual integrity and the obvious sincerity of his argument. Also, even in a some-

times fierce moment of a debate, he never failed to reveal a friendly glint in his eye. He let his opponents feel his respect and understanding of their opposing viewpoint.

At a time like this, Mr. Speaker, when the 87th Congress is in process of organization one feels especially how sad and unfortunate it was that KEITH THOMSON never lived to enjoy the fruit of his hard earned final political victory. Only those elected to high public office can fully appreciate the misfortune of his not being able to take his oath of office and feel with due pride the full honor accorded him by the people of the great State of Wyoming.

Yet, sad as that is, the real misfortune, it seems to me, is the loss to the Nation—the loss of KEITH'S future service to our beloved country. KEITH THOMSON'S sudden death, indeed, has deprived the United States of a devoted and dedicated patriot. In the silencing of his voice and the stilling of his mind and body lies the real tragedy, for he had important work to do. The Nation can ill afford his death.

We, KEITH'S friends and associates, Mr. Speaker, feel a personal sense of grief, and yet we have happy memories and much to be thankful for. In this latter respect, I am sure that in our association with KEITH THOMSON in this House we gained inspiration in such total measure that our resultant higher ideals and efforts for better government individually and collectively will compensate somewhat and help to fill the great individual void left by his absence. I am sure, too, such is what our departed friend and colleague would want as a memorial to his public service.

Meanwhile, to his widow, Mrs. Thomson, and his family of loved ones, I express for myself and my wife our deep sympathy. May the memory of a fine husband and devoted father serve to comfort them in their present adversity and at length sustain them with due pride in the years ahead.

Remarks by Representative Jonas

Of North Carolina

Mr. JONAS. Mr. Speaker, the news that the Grim Reaper had struck down KEITH THOMSON at the moment of his greatest political triumph came as a profound shock to all of us who had worked so closely with him in Congress.

Among the able men with whom I have had the privilege of working in the House of Representatives, KEITH THOMSON will always take high rank. He was a gentleman and a scholar. Whenever he chose to take the floor for a discussion of legislative proposals, he received close attention because all of his colleagues knew that he would have something important and constructive to say.

KEITH THOMSON was one of the hardest working members of the House Committee on Appropriations and brought to his service thereon a fine, legal mind which enabled him to separate the wheat from the chaff and cut through the underbrush to the essentials.

The sadness of his passing is dampened somewhat by the realization that he has left legacies more valuable than material things—to his district, his State, and his Nation, a record of service in war and in peace, which time will never erase, and to his sons a good name—"a monument more lasting than brass."

I join KEITH THOMSON'S many friends in expressing profound sorrow over his untimely death and to his dear wife and fine sons my sincere sympathy over the great loss they have suffered. It is my hope and prayer that time will deal gently with them and that they will find the faith and strength to face the inevitable without bitterness, in the realization that a host of friends and admirers mourn with them over the passing of this great American.

Remarks by Representative Weaver

Of Nebraska

Mr. WEAVER. Mr. Speaker, as with other Members of the House I was shocked and saddened by the sudden death of our colleague, the Honorable KEITH THOMSON, on December 9, 1960. Not only had the Nation lost a valuable public servant but I personally had lost a good and valued friend.

I felt particularly close to KEITH THOMSON because he and I entered the Congress on the same day and had, throughout our three terms in the House, served on the same committees. In addition we had a community of interest in that his great State of Wyoming borders on my own State of Nebraska and we share many mutual problems.

All of these ties bound KEITH THOMSON and me close together during our terms in Congress.

KEITH was a product of our times. He was young, vigorous, and capable. He represented ably the viewpoint of his constituents and his State. He fought vigorously for principles and ideal.

KEITH was born in Lancaster, Wyo., in 1919. He graduated from the Wyoming Law School in 1941 and almost immediately entered the Army to fight bravely and with distinction during World War II. He was decorated for valor in Italy and won the Purple Heart. He was noted as the youngest battalion commander in the Army by the time the war came to an end. He rose rapidly to the rank of lieutenant colonel.

After leaving the service he entered private law practice in Cheyenne and became active in civic affairs and politics. He ran for and was elected to the Wyoming Legislature in 1950 and served in that body for two terms. In 1954 he ran for Congress on the Republican ticket and was elected.

Mr. Speaker, all of us here know of his record from that point on. He showed keen interest and insight into the

problems of the veterans of our Nation. He showed interest and a great deal of knowledge about the water and natural resource development problems of the Middle and Far West.

His capabilities came to the attention of the leadership on our side of the aisle and Mr. THOMSON was appointed to the House Committee on Appropriations. There he served faithfully and well and brought to that committee a broad knowledge and great commonsense.

His record in the Congress so impressed the people of his home State of Wyoming that KEITH THOMSON was this past fall elected to the U.S. Senate. He is the first man in history in the State of Wyoming to have moved from the House of Representatives to the U.S. Senate, another noteworthy achievement for one so young.

I would, at this time, Mr. Speaker, like to extend to his wife and fine family my own condolences and those of Mrs. Weaver. Although we have lost a good friend and the Nation a fine public servant, they have lost a devoted and loving husband and father.

Remarks by Representative Whitener

Of North Carolina

Mr. WHITENER. Mr. Speaker, a few weeks before returning to Washington a news bulletin flashed on the television screen in my home. It brought to me the sad and saddening news of the passing of a dear friend, KEITH THOMSON. I had known KEITH THOMSON during the 4 years I worked with him here in the Congress, and I had come to appreciate him not only as a capable legislator and as a man with a great military background, but, most of all, as a true gentleman in every sense of the word.

I think it was particularly shocking that one who had just earned the victory that had come to him at the polls in his State should have his life taken in the very midst of the joy that so many felt for the great victory that he had earned at the polls. But, those of us who knew him and appreciated him and loved him can really take comfort in the fact that even though he was denied the earthly joys of this great victory at the polls, through his life, service, and his Christian character he has earned the even greater victory to which mortal man should aspire.

Mrs. Whitener joins me in expressing to Mrs. Thomson and their fine sons our deep sense of sorrow we felt and still continue to feel by reason of the passing of this great and good man.

Remarks by Representative Avery

Of Kansas

Mr. AVERY. Mr. Speaker, there have been many, many times in the last 6 years that I have risen on the floor of the House and in personal conversation to pay tribute to KEITH THOMSON. It is certainly with profound sorrow that I find myself paying tribute today and that he is not among us to hear it or to hear of it. Like several others of my colleagues who have preceded me here today, I came to the House in the 84th Congress, the same year as KEITH THOMSON. Irrespective of the social circles, Mr. Speaker, that we find ourselves joining—irrespective, I think, of our committee assignments, or irrespective of almost anything else, we naturally find ourselves just a little closer to those Members who join this body in the same year that we did. On that basis, Mr. Speaker, I have had a continuing and a very pleasant relationship with KEITH THOMSON. I visited his home both in Washington and in Cheyenne, Wyo. I think on the basis of my privilege of being a guest in his home on numerous occasions and on the basis of the experience I have had of serving with him, perhaps in this short time after his passing I can put into perspective some of the outstanding characteristics of our departed colleague from Wyoming. I think, further, they may have been touched upon already, but I would just like to recite them again for you. One of the most outstanding characteristics of KEITH THOMSON was his fearlessness. That was demonstrated on the field of battle as well as in the area of legislative debate right here in the well of this House. Never once did KEITH retract from a position that he thought was right, not only to vote for it, but to stand here in the well of the House and fight for it. If there is one important characteristic of a statesman, that would be it. On some occasions, I might add, it probably

was not politically expedient for him to take that very firm position.

Another outstanding characteristic of KEITH THOMSON was his great capacity for work. I think that has already been pretty well covered here today.

I would like to point out one unique aspect of his dedication to his work. As I recall, there are only three Members of this House who represent States having only one Member in this particular body. So on that basis those three Members have more work to do than anybody else. Not only do they usually have a larger geographical area to represent, but they have all the problems affecting that State, and it becomes their responsibility to represent them, not only in this Chamber but with the agencies and committees as well. I would say in that particular respect whereas most of us have one or more associates in this House, there are two Members in the other body. In the case of the Congressman from Wyoming, he has all the responsibility in this body as compared with other Members representing a portion of their States in this body.

The third characteristic I want to mention is the deep love and affection which KEITH THOMSON felt for his family. Despite his workload, for which we have already paid tribute, he never found himself so busy that he did not have all the time it required to accompany his boys or his wife to any function that he felt was of importance to their family circle. I think that is a symbol we like to see in every American family today.

KEITH THOMSON'S service to his country, both in war and in the Congress of the United States, and as a father and husband has become a symbol of our great American institution that we could call the ideal family man.

Remarks by Representative Haley

Of Florida

Mr. HALEY. Mr. Speaker, I, too, share the sorrow of many of the Members of this House today on the passing of KEITH THOMSON. He was an outstanding young man, cut down in the very prime of his life. He rendered to the people of this great Nation of ours a service way beyond the call of duty. Wyoming and the Nation have lost a man who showed great promise of rising to great heights in the councils of this Nation.

I knew KEITH THOMSON as many of you have. I visited in his home in his home State and here in Washington during his service in the Congress. I am sure that any person coming into contact with that fine man certainly must feel a sense of loss in his untimely passing.

I, too, Mr. Speaker, join with my colleagues today in paying my last respects to a man who I think above all things loved his family and his State. He also loved his Nation and he loved the institutions which have made us a great nation.

I join with the other Members in extending my deepest sympathy to his wife and to his fine family in their great loss—a loss that is shared by all of us here in the Congress and by the whole Nation which he loved so well.

Remarks by Representative Poff

Of Virginia

Mr. POFF. Mr. Speaker, on the morning of the day KEITH THOMSON passed away, I dictated a letter conveying an invitation for him to address an important gathering in the Sixth Congressional District of Virginia. The invitation was initiated by a group of men and women, none of whom had ever met the Senator-elect personally. However, all of them knew him by reputation and admired what they knew.

I knew him personally. I knew him intimately. I knew him fondly. KEITH was one of that select group of public servants who methodically, quietly, and without fanfare devote themselves to the painstaking detail and the careful, meticulous thought and deed which turn the wheels of a government of the people, by the people, and for the people. Not given to much talk, his words always carried the ring of conviction. He was a persuasive advocate.

As a soldier, a lawyer, a statesman, a husband, and a father, KEITH THOMSON left footprints on the sands of time. Upon his bereaved ones I invoke the blessing and comfort of the Creator.

Remarks by Representative Siler

Of Kentucky

Mr. SILER. Mr. Speaker, this was indeed a tremendous shock to all of us in the House of Representatives, but in particular it was a shock to those of us who came in with KEITH THOMSON as neophyte Congressmen at the beginning of the 84th Congress, and I would now like to extend my deepest sympathy to his wife and to his three surviving sons in their hours of sorrow.

This is one of those young men who came out of the West to serve his Nation. He was firmly devoted to his country in time of war and completely dedicated to it in time of peace. This man was truly a prince among men. On one occasion, King David said to his servants upon the happening of the death of Abner: "Know ye not that there is fallen a prince and a great man this day in Israel." And so we ourselves now note that upon the death of KEITH THOMSON there fell a prince and a great man of our country, one who was high in intellectual attainments, totally dedicated to the service of his country in time of peace, and also zealously patriotic in time of war.

Life is quite a mystery and we do not understand it. The poet said:

Life, I know not what thou art, but know that thou and I must part;
And when or where or how we met, I own to me is a secret yet.
But this I know, when thou art fled, where e'er they lay these limbs, this head,
No clod so valueless shall be as all that then remains of me.
Life, we have been long together through pleasant and through cloudy weather;
'Tis hard to part when friends are dear, perhaps 'twill cost a sigh, a tear;
Then steal away, give little warning, choose thine own time;
Say not goodnight, but in some brighter clime bid me good morning.

And so even though we have had to bid this young man of the West goodby, we feel that in God's good hour we shall bid him good morning in a life immortal that shall know no end.

Remarks by Representative Gubser

Of California

Mr. GUBSER. Mr. Speaker, some men have the ability to write and speak words at a time like this which are in proper tribute to the memory of a departed colleague. Lacking that ability I shall not attempt to do so now, lest my words fall short of what KEITH THOMSON'S memory deserves.

I shall say only this: we will never know a more honorable man nor a finer individual than was KEITH THOMSON.

Remarks by Representative Wilson

Of California

Mr. WILSON. Mr. Speaker, KEITH THOMSON was one of our outstanding young Republican leaders and he will be sorely missed by all of us who knew him and served with him.

It was my privilege to get to know KEITH soon after he was elected to the 84th Congress, and to quickly learn that he was an able, sincere, and dedicated legislator.

Having served with distinction in World War II as a commander of troops in the field, KEITH THOMSON displayed in his work in the House the reasons why he was chosen for such military leadership.

He was not a compromiser. He believed that nothing short of right was right. He was firm, tough, yet understanding of human problems.

KEITH was in his proper element in his most recent committee work in the House. Serving as he did on a Defense Appropriations Subcommittee, he was firm in the stand he took for a strong Defense Establishment. He was particularly interested in the ballistic missile program and his incisive questions in committee showed this keen and searching desire to improve our ICBM capability.

Most importantly, KEITH THOMSON was a true and steadfast personal friend. He was always willing and eager to help his colleagues in their problems.

KEITH will long be remembered in the House of Representatives. And, I am sure the people of Wyoming who honored him with such a resounding vote of confidence by electing him to the Senate of the United States will remember him, too.

To his widow, Thyra, and their three fine sons, my wife joins in extending sympathy and condolences.

Remarks by Representative Rhodes

Of Arizona

Mr. RHODES. Mr. Speaker, it was a profound shock to me, and it is still a shock, to contemplate the passing of my very good friend KEITH THOMSON. In his passing the U.S. Congress has been deprived of one of the most capable men ever to grace this Hall and one of the most able men who would ever have served in the other body across the Capitol.

All of the things which have been said by our colleagues concerning this fine man are true, and in a measure beyond belief. I do not have the eloquence to add to them, and I do not intend to try. I merely want to say that my own personal feelings about KEITH THOMSON are those of one friend to another. The quality of friendship is, I suppose, a nebulous one in many ways, but when you analyze it you realize that to be a good friend you must be loyal, you must possess integrity and over and above that you must possess the emotional ability to feel an affection toward your fellow man.

A person who has good friends must be a good friend. KEITH THOMSON had many good friends. He possessed all of the qualities of friendship which made it possible that he would have good friends. He had friends not only in the House of Representatives but also in his own home city and in his own home State. I do not think I have ever seen a group of people so profoundly affected by the passing of one man as was the group of people who attended the funeral of our departed colleague in Cheyenne, Wyo. I do not think I have ever known as many people who have expressed to me regret at the passing of any individual as have expressed that regret at the passing of KEITH, and during his lifetime I do not know of anyone who held the approbation and good will of as many people not only at home but in all parts of

the country as he did. He was my friend, and his wife and his sons certainly will fall heir to the friendship which I felt toward KEITH.

Mrs. Rhodes joins me in wishing them all the best in the future and in assuring them that anything which they desire or need which is within our power to give, they will possess.

Remarks by Representative Belcher

Of Oklahoma

Mr. BELCHER. Mr. Speaker, today I mourn with the lovely widow and with the family of the late Congressman KEITH THOMSON. I also mourn with his own great State of Wyoming. The people of this wonderful State, his beautiful, smiling homeland, have lost a tremendous fighter, a man who believed in fairness, who tried to do right, who fought for justice and hated intolerance.

Mr. Speaker, the remarks that have been so eloquently stated by those who have preceded me in eulogizing our beloved late colleague, the Honorable KEITH THOMSON, of Cheyenne, are indeed deserved tributes to a great American and I believe demonstrate in part at least the extent to which he will be sorely missed by those of us who remain to carry on the responsibilities of government affairs. I have been privileged to know and to serve with KEITH THOMSON since the day he came to Congress. During this period I have valued his friendship and admired his professional ability as a legislator and as a leader. You may be assured that the rich memories of those years will always be cherished by Mrs. Belcher and myself.

Remarks by Representative Ford

Of Michigan

Mr. FORD. Mr. Speaker, our departed colleague, KEITH THOMSON, was an extremely close personal friend who made in many fields a tremendous record of public service. During his 6 years as an outstanding Member of the House of Representatives I learned to know KEITH THOMSON intimately and I can say without hesitation or qualification he was a legislator of great skill and competence. He was conscientious, yes too dedicated, because he worked unbelievably long hours and I feel this effort contributed to his premature passing. No Member of Congress ever worked longer hours. It seems tragic that this fine effort to do a better job should perhaps be a factor in the early termination of a great career.

In 1959 and 1960 it was my privilege to serve on the Defense Subcommittee on Appropriations with KEITH THOMSON. During this 2-year period I was ranking minority member of this group and can say KEITH was a bulwark of strength in strongly defending the sound defense policies of President Eisenhower. He was diligent, constructive and experienced in this committee responsibility. He will be badly missed by the members of the Defense subcommittee, both Democrats and Republicans alike and I have lost a committee colleague whose counsel and support was invaluable.

In 1959 I was invited by KEITH to address a Lincoln Day dinner in Cheyenne, Wyo. It was a wonderful experience to be in KEITH's home State to see the esteem that came his way from his multitude of friends. He was respected, truly admired by his constituents and this attitude is best evidenced by his successes as a candidate for the House of

Representatives and the recent victory as a candidate for the Senate.

KEITH THOMSON'S career was just beginning, but in the years previous he had accomplished much. His military career was beyond comparison. His legislative career was an inspiration for others. In addition he was a man of highest character and reputation.

I will badly miss KEITH because he was one of my best friends. To his wonderful wife and fine three sons, Mrs. Ford and I extend our deepest sympathy.

Remarks by Representative Berry

Of South Dakota

Mr. BERRY. Mr. Speaker, one of the greatest shocks I have ever received was as Mrs. Berry and I were returning to Washington. We were driving down the highway when the news was flashed over the radio of the death of KEITH THOMSON. The news struck me as it would had it been my own brother. We almost had to pull off to the side of the road until we could recover.

I have known KEITH since he was in college. My brother and KEITH were very good friends at Black Hills Teachers College in western South Dakota. His family lived in western South Dakota. We became close friends through our service in Congress, primarily because the problems of his State and of my district are so very similar.

Mr. Speaker, there is little I can add to what has already been said so very eloquently many, many times here this afternoon. I would simply say that perhaps one of the things that contributed to his untimely death was the fact that in all of his work and in all of his efforts, KEITH had never learned to relax.

Mr. Speaker, KEITH was not only a great legislator, as all of us know who served with him here on the floor of this House, but he was also a loving husband and father.

Mr. Speaker, Mrs. Berry joins me in extending our heartfelt sympathy to Mrs. Thomson and to the boys on this sad occasion.

Remarks by Representative Laird

Of Wisconsin

Mr. LAIRD. Mr. Speaker, the sudden passing of our beloved colleague and friend, KEITH THOMSON, brought sorrow to all of us who knew him and served with him here in the House of Representatives. I had the opportunity to serve with him not only as a Member of the House but also as a member of the House Committee on Appropriations, and in particular as a member of the Defense Department Appropriations Subcommittee.

I admired KEITH THOMSON as a man, as a legislator, and as a friend.

There are many tributes that could be paid to KEITH. We have heard many here on the floor of the House today. There is one tribute, though, that I think KEITH truly deserves. It is a tribute that really expresses how great an American KEITH was. KEITH was genuine. He was genuine in all his thinking and in all his doings. He was a man of genuine convictions, with great courage to express and stand by those convictions.

I wish to join my colleagues in these tributes to KEITH THOMSON, and to express again my sympathy and the sympathy of my wife and family to his beloved wife, Thyra, and to their three fine sons.

Remarks by Representative Schwengel

Of Iowa

Mr. SCHWENGEL. Mr. Speaker, there are times when words are futile and when one feels inadequate to the challenge when situations like this present themselves, but commonsense and decency dictate that we must say or do something even though what we say or do is inadequate.

I, like many, came here with KEITH THOMSON in 1955. In our daily and intimate associations I learned early to respect him and honor him and love him. His sudden and untimely passing was indeed a shock to me and to all who knew him.

I am glad to join my colleagues today in paying tribute, and I might say well deserved tribute, to KEITH THOMSON, to a friend, to a fine public servant, to a great American who in 6 years here in the Congress earned for himself and his State and the country the exalted title of a statesman. He was respected and loved by all who knew him.

In this Congress as a legislator he always considered what was best for the country first, what was best for his State second, and what was best for his party third. This is the order in which all of us I think should consider the issues and problems that come before this body.

In his presentations he was always able and intelligent, always precise and logical. He served his State and his Nation very, very well.

Somehow a quotation from Thomas Jefferson comes to mind just now that I think is appropriate. Mr. Jefferson was asked one time about the things that are most important to observe in life. He said, after a few preliminary remarks to this friend of his:

> Few words will be necessary with good disposition on your part. Adore God, reverence and cherish your parents, love your neighbor as yourself and your country more than yourself.

I believe KEITH THOMSON's life and his work was a testimony to the fact that he loved his country more than himself.

Probably because of my interest in Abraham Lincoln and because I know of his interest in this great American and his part in bringing into being a great and appropriate memorial to Abraham Lincoln in his State, the lines of a great American poet of that era come to mind, and they apply also. They are:

> Here is a man who posed against the world, a man to match the mountains and the sea.

I know no greater tribute that can be given to a man than to say that he will be missed, and most surely KEITH THOMSON will be missed. Mrs. Schwengel and I want to express our extreme sorrow and regret in his passing, and to extend our sincere and deep sympathy to the people he represented so well and to his beloved and fine family.

Remarks by Representative Bray

Of Indiana

Mr. BRAY. Mr. Speaker, everyone in this body knows that KEITH THOMSON was a capable, honest, and sincere legislator, representing his district and his country well. There is but little I can add to the tributes that have already been paid to KEITH THOMSON, but there is one thing which to me was always outstanding about him. I have never known a man who was more courageous and a harder fighter for the things that he believed were right. But I have never seen a kinder man in public life. Even on the floor of the House when debate might get rather vigorous and heated, KEITH, while forceful and articulate in voicing his views, there was never a barb or any indication of bitterness toward anyone in any statement made by him. I never heard KEITH THOMSON say an unkind, mean, or vicious thing about anyone. He was in every respect a capable legislator and a gentleman. I deeply appreciate my 6 years of association with him. He will be greatly missed on Capitol Hill. I want to express my deep sympathy to his lovely family.

Remarks by Representative Riehlman

Of New York

Mr. RIEHLMAN. Mr. Speaker, the news of the death of KEITH THOMSON was a tremendous shock to me. Although my association with KEITH was not intimate, seldom did a day pass while Congress was in session that I did not chat with him on the floor of the House or in the cloakroom, where we very often had lunch. His deep and sincere interest in all legislative matters was always evident. The thorough manner in which he carried out his committee assignments was a challenge to all of us. His desire to become a U.S. Senator was one of his great ambitions, and we had discussed it several times. With this ambition achieved, the good Lord saw fit to remove him from our midst before he had an opportunity to serve his country in that capacity. Although he will not be with us in person, the imprint of his association with us as a man of great character, courage, and friendly spirit will remain. I shall always cherish having known him. I extend my deepest sympathy to his wife and family. May the good Lord give them supporting strength in their hour of great loss.

Remarks by Representative Meader

Of Michigan

Mr. MEADER. Mr. Speaker, I join in paying tribute to our late colleague, KEITH THOMSON, and in expressing heartfelt sympathy to his wife and family.

I was aware of the extraordinary energy, determination, and zeal KEITH devoted to his work as Representative from the State of Wyoming and to his successful campaign for the Senate. The abrupt and untimely end to his brilliant career in public service gives us all pause and rudely reminds us of the tenuousness of the thread of existence.

I share the grief of his family, his friends, and his constituents in Wyoming who chose KEITH to be their spokesman in the U.S. Senate and join in testifying to the high character of one whose service, though abbreviated, was outstanding.

Remarks by Representative Widnall

Of New Jersey

Mr. WIDNALL. Mr. Speaker, all of us in Congress who were privileged to serve with KEITH THOMSON are saddened by his recent passing. He was a young man of great promise. That he delivered in large measure on that promise in his 6 years as a Member of the House of Representatives was attested to by the voters of Wyoming in electing him on November 8, 1960, to the Senate of the United States.

It can be said of KEITH THOMSON that in all his endeavors he was a standout. Seldom does the electorate send to the Congress a Representative as well qualified by experience in such a variety of important fields. He was a lawyer, a university instructor, one recognized by the junior chamber of commerce as the outstanding young man in his community; a respected member of the Wyoming Legislature, and also a highly decorated hero of World War II.

Mr. Speaker, in extending to the members of KEITH THOMSON'S family my deepest sympathy, I want them to know that KEITH was held in the highest respect and affection by his colleagues. The tragedy of his untimely loss is felt by us all. We will always cherish the memory of his friendship.

Remarks by Representative Johansen

Of Michigan

Mr. JOHANSEN. Mr. Speaker, there is little I can add to the richly merited tributes which my colleagues have already paid KEITH THOMSON other than to record my own profound sorrow and sense of loss at his most untimely passing and to proffer the sincere sympathy of Mrs. Johansen and myself to his loved ones.

Mr. THOMSON first became a Member of this House the same day that I did, on January 3, 1955. He was an exceptionally able Member and a devoted adherent to fundamental constitutional principles.

The poignancy of his death is, of course, greatly heightened by his comparative youth and by the fact that he was on the threshold of a new and immensely promising career as a Member of the other body.

We can only accept with humble faith the dispensations of Providence, grateful that we have had the privilege of his friendship and association and determined to carry on in the performance of our own duties with the same high purpose and dedication KEITH THOMSON exemplified so splendidly.

Remarks by Representative Jensen

Of Iowa

Mr. JENSEN. Mr. Speaker, the passing of our good colleague, the Honorable KEITH THOMSON, grieves me deeply.

I had learned early in his membership here in the House of his dedication to duty as a Representative of the good people of Wyoming and the Nation.

I urged that he be made a member of the Appropriations and then as a member of the Interior Subcommittee of Appropriations of which I am ranking Republican, because he was a stanch conservative, and would fight with all his power against wasteful spending of the people's tax dollar and because of his unlimited knowledge of the problems which effected the Great Plains area which he loved with an abiding faith.

KEITH proved to be a most valuable member of that committee—able, honest, and attentive to duty.

Like his multitude of friends and admirers in and out of Congress, I shall miss this great and good statesman, KEITH THOMSON. My heart goes out to his devoted loving wife and family.

God rest his soul.

Remarks by Representative Dominick

Of Colorado

Mr. DOMINICK. Mr. Speaker, the Second District of Colorado, which I represent, borders on our friendly neighboring State of Wyoming and long prior to my entrance into this congressional campaign, I had the opportunity and honor of meeting and admiring KEITH THOMSON.

As has been said here so eloquently by others, he was a dedicated American who not only defended his country and our ideals in World War II in active combat, but carried his enthusiasm and drive to preserve our American form of government into his political life.

On one occasion I approached him on a matter which concerned many Colorado residents and a small Wyoming company. He knew immediately of the company, grasped an extremely complex problem in a very few minutes and assisted us in taking necessary steps to solve the problem. All of this occurred near adjournment of a session when tremendous pressure was being faced by all Members, but he was unfailingly courteous, determined to prevent unnecessary Government interference and available for conferences at all hours of several very difficult days for counsel and advice.

The toll on his strength which such dedication took has created an irreparable loss to his State, to the West, and to the country. On behalf of good government, on behalf of the residents of Colorado, and on behalf of all the citizens to whom he had been a Representative, a friend, a counselor, I wish to add my thanks and to extend my deepest sympathies to his family.

Remarks by Representative May

Of Washington

Mrs. MAY. Mr. Speaker, on this day when we pay tribute to our colleague, KEITH THOMSON, whose untimely death has brought such sadness to all of us, I am thinking, too, of the fine family he leaves behind him. I wish most of all that I could find some words of comfort and inspiration for them. The Nation, the State of Wyoming, and we, the Members of Congress, have lost a dedicated public servant with the passing of KEITH, but Thyra has lost a beloved husband, and those three fine boys have lost a wonderful father. When a man has given so many years of his life to the service of his country in both military service and public office, surely the inspiration he leaves behind him for family and friends and colleagues can temper the bitterness of that loss. God entrusts to all of us a role to play in protecting our freedom, and, as an unusually able Member of Congress, KEITH THOMSON played his role with skill and honor. To me, he was typical of the Western area of America which he so well represented. He was outspoken and vigorous, courageous, and he was as uncompromising with himself as he was with the truth. Perhaps his life stands to teach us all to be more concerned with how well we live, rather than how long. And this is a very proud heritage to leave to that beloved and fine family of his.

I should like to include in this eulogy something that those three young sons of KEITH's might read one of these days, and find the comfort in it that I did when I lost my own father some years ago. It is a letter written by Abraham Lincoln—a man whom KEITH greatly admired—to a young girl on the death of her father back in 1862:

DEAR FANNY: It is with deep regret that I learn of the death of your kind and brave father; and, especially, that it is affecting

your young heart beyond what is common in such cases. In this sad world of ours sorrow comes to all; and, to the young, it comes with bitterest agony, because it takes them unawares. The older have learned ever to expect it. I am anxious to afford some alleviation of your present distress. Perfect relief is not possible, except with time. You cannot now realize that you will ever feel better. Is not this so? And yet it is a mistake. You are sure to be happy again. To know this, which is certainly true, will make you some less miserable now. I have had experience enough to know what I say, and you need only to believe it, to feel better at once. The memory of your dear father, instead of an agony, will yet be a sad sweet feeling in your heart, of a purer, and holier sort than you have known before.

Remarks by Representative Springer

Of Illinois

Mr. SPRINGER. Mr. Speaker, I have known KEITH THOMSON well during all the time he has been a Member of this body.

It is rare that one so young in years should be so wise in action. KEITH THOMSON not only knew where he was going, but knew how to get there. The intensity of his drive and the sincerity of his belief led him many places where others would fear to tread.

For his constituents, nothing was too small if he believed it ought to be done. He was never afraid to oppose popular opinions or projects if he believed they were unwise in the public interest.

As a member of the Committee on Appropriations, he vigorously opposed matters that he believed were not in the long-term interest of his State or his Nation.

Personally, KEITH THOMSON was vigorous and physically active. He liked the outdoors. The great State of Wyoming was his happy hunting ground. He loved that State and its people.

It is perhaps unfortunate, and a great loss to the country, that in the prime of his life he should be called by his Maker. His future was one of great promise built on the solid ground of effort which he had made in the years that he had been a Member of this body. We, in the Congress, both in this and the other body, will miss his kind words and his good advice.

To his wife and sons, Mrs. Springer and I extend our deepest sympathy upon a loss so great.

Remarks by Representative Dorn

Of South Carolina

Mr. DORN. Mr. Speaker, KEITH THOMSON'S untimely passing is a sad blow to individual liberty and constitutional government. KEITH THOMSON was dedicated to the principles and ideals that made this Nation great. He was devoted to the free-enterprise system to a minimum of bureaucracy and big government.

He always placed the welfare of the United States before any political consideration. He had courage. He was a statesman, a great American, and warm personal friend.

Mrs. Dorn joins me in my deepest sympathy to Mrs. Thomson, his children, the State of Wyoming, and freedom-loving Americans everywhere.

Remarks by Representative Horan

Of Washington

Mr. HORAN. Mr. Speaker, I want to join with my colleagues in paying my most sincere respects to the memory of KEITH THOMSON. KEITH was a dedicated man and his devotion to duty, his clear analysis of every situation, and his love of country were certainly outstanding. Mrs. Horan and I wish to join the others in extending our deep sympathy to Mrs. Thomson and their fine family.

Remarks by Representative Cederberg

Of Michigan

Mr. CEDERBERG. Mr. Speaker, our Nation lost a great American when our colleague, KEITH THOMSON, was called by his Maker. To me it was also a great personal loss because through our close association I had come to cherish his friendship.

The State of Wyoming recognized the abilities of our late colleague when it saw fit to elect him to the U.S. Senate shortly before his death. His career was studded with public service, and each time he received a new assignment he applied himself to the task before him with all the ability and wisdom at his command. Whether in his country's military service, his legal profession, or the State and Federal legislatures, KEITH THOMSON made it a point to conscientiously devote himself to duty. Little wonder that people of his State admired him so greatly and repeatedly gave him recognition.

I wish to extend my sympathies to the family of our departed colleague.

Remarks by Representative Lipscomb

Of California

Mr. LIPSCOMB. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues at this time to pay my deepest respect to our distinguished former colleague in the House of Representatives, the late Senator-elect KEITH THOMSON of Wyoming. All of us I know were shocked and saddened by his untimely death on December 9, 1960.

It was a very distinct privilege to me to have been closely associated with KEITH during his service in the House from the 84th through the 86th Congresses, and to know him as a warm personal friend. During the last Congress we were colleagues on the House Appropriations Committee.

KEITH was a hard working and conscientious Representative, a credit to the State of Wyoming and the Nation. He approached his work with the zeal and dedication of purpose characteristic of outstanding men, which he was.

Tragically, KEITH was taken from us a short month after having been chosen by the people of Wyoming to serve in the U.S. Senate. Had he been granted the privilege of serving in that body, most assuredly he would have done so with great distinction.

My heartfelt sympathies go out to Mrs. Thomson and their three young sons. In their time of grief, I sincerely hope they are able to find some measure of consolation in the fact that the outstanding record of public service of their husband and father will stand to his and their credit always.

Remarks by Representative Mack

Of Illinois

Mr. MACK. Mr. Speaker, the untimely death of KEITH THOMSON removed from our midst an able and distinguished public servant who served with honor in peace and war.

I had the privilege of meeting KEITH shortly after he entered Congress. He was a dedicated Congressman and it was no surprise to me when I learned of his victorious campaign for the U.S. Senate. I was, however, deeply shocked when I was informed that death had claimed him shortly after this tremendous victory. I shall miss him greatly and I join my colleagues in conveying my sympathy to his family.

Remarks by Representative McIntire

Of Maine

Mr. McINTIRE. Mr. Speaker, sadness strikes deeply at my heart as I join in paying tribute to our beloved late colleague, KEITH THOMSON, of Wyoming.

Those of us who were privileged to know this man admired his brilliance of mind, his fighting spirit, his devotion to people and service, and his steadfastness for the right, as God gave him remarkable vision to see the right.

While I did not serve on any committee with KEITH, I do know that his work and interests were directed toward a great breadth of subject matter. He was, for instance, vitally interested in the problems that came before the House Committee on Agriculture, on which I serve, and I valued his counsel on such items as wool and sheep, and on the cattle industry and the domestic beetsugar industry, just to mention a few.

The people of Wyoming held KEITH THOMSON in high regard, as was evidenced by his election in 1960 to the U.S. Senate. I learned of this esteem firsthand when I accepted KEITH'S invitation to speak in Riverton and Torrington, Wyo., in 1959. This turned out to be a very pleasant trip, and it was indeed an exciting and pleasing experience to observe right up close the fine support with which KEITH was honored in his State.

It so happened that last summer I was once again in Torrington. While there I purchased a local newspaper, which contained an exciting report that was written by Mrs. Thomson and told Wyoming folks about some interesting happenings in Washington. I derived considerable pleasure from this article, feeling that here again was more proof that KEITH and Thyra Thomson were indeed a splendid team, one that worked effectively to serve the best interests of the State of Wyoming and the Nation.

EDWIN KEITH THOMSON

It is certainly sad to see a young man taken in the prime of his life, but we who are but mere mortals can never question the wisdom and dictates of our God on high. We can, however, be thankful for the constructive life that was KEITH THOMSON'S, and we will always be grateful for the great gift that is ours—the cherished memory of our friendship.

In concluding my comments, I would like to say that Mrs. McIntire joins me in extending to Thyra and the boys our deepest sympathy.

Remarks by Representative Libonati

Of Illinois

Mr. LIBONATI. Mr. Speaker, the untimely death of our colleague, KEITH THOMSON, again challenges man in his godly precepts of religious understanding and faith. This noble man loved life and was dedicated to God's purposes on earth—to serve others with a sense of humility and understanding. He labored with an absolute tenseness of courageous action.

He loved human beings and never wavered in defense on their behalf. Whether on the battlefield, in the legislature, the courts, or the Congress, KEITH THOMSON enjoyed the respect and honor of his fellow citizens.

We suffer from a deeper sadness of heart that, after being victorious in his senatorial campaign, he lost to the omnipotent wisdom of the giver of all victories—the good Lord, "who giveth and taketh away."

His whole ambition was centered on service in the U.S. Senate. This was denied. And so we say, with great regret, that a great man has fallen to his destiny. It is the only answer that we know.

I extend my heartfelt sympathy to his lovely wife and family. And may they take strength in the memory of his rich accomplishments and gentle love for his family. The Nation, the State of Wyoming, and the Congress have lost a dedicated statesman and patriot of distinction and honor.

Remarks by Representative Younger

Of California

Mr. YOUNGER. Mr. Speaker, during my 8 years in the House I have not heard such an outpouring of deserving and sincere testimony as to the character, ability, talent, and capacity of any of our deceased Members as I have heard today from both sides of the aisle concerning the passing of our colleague, KEITH THOMSON.

This spontaneous expression of national, personal, and family loss is an impressive memorial to which I can add nothing, but I can wholeheartedly and with all candor approve everything which has been said. The most difficult prayer to offer is "Thy will, not mine, be done" and it is the one we have the most trouble comprehending.

Mrs. Younger joins me in expressing our deepest sympathy to Mrs. Keith Thomson and the sons who have a truly precious birthright.

Remarks by Representative Alger

Of Texas

Mr. ALGER. Mr. Speaker, in the death of KEITH THOMSON, I lost more than a respected and honored colleague. I lost a personal friend for whom I had deep affection.

KEITH and I served together from the day we first came to Congress. We shared many intimate thoughts and discussions of our role here and our attitudes toward the responsibility of the service to which the people entrusted us. In this manner I came to know KEITH THOMSON as one of those rare individuals with a devotion to duty which was almost a fault. He drove himself hard in giving his best to the job in hand.

From combat experience in time of war which we also shared, although in different theaters, we often talked of the sacrifice of those who put love of country and service to mankind above their own self-interest, and many times we wondered at the turn of fate which seemed too soon to take the best, the noblest from us.

That KEITH THOMSON had to leave this life so young in years, cannot help but be a loss to the land he loved and to the people he served so well. But that land and those people are the better, I am sure, because KEITH passed this way. In a way he had a full life. He put so much into it.

To his devoted wife and sons, I join with my colleagues in extending my sympathy.

EDWIN KEITH THOMSON

Perhaps the creed which guided KEITH THOMSON could be found in the following lines, written some time ago by a friend of mine:

Calvary, the shadows hastened the end of day,
And those near the Master heard Him say,
"It is finished," He bowed His head,
The soldiers muttered, "He is dead."

Now I, trying to follow in the Master's way,
Lift up my eyes and to my Father say,
My life is thine, take it, Oh God,
That another's path may be less hard to trod.

If I can stoop to lift or ease one single pain,
Or utter one word of beauty that may live again,
Then I may say, when at last I stand alone,
It is finished, Father, I am coming home.

Remarks by Representative Bass

Of New Hampshire

Mr. BASS. Mr. Speaker, I join with my colleagues in paying tribute to KEITH THOMSON. We were both elected as freshmen to the 84th Congress, and in the past 6 years I came to regard him as one of the ablest and most respected Members of the House, as well as a close personal friend. When someone like this with a great future before him dies still young, it is indeed tragic. Mrs. Bass joins me in sending Thyra and his three fine boys our deepest sympathy.

Remarks by Representative Miller

Of New York

Mr. MILLER. Mr. Speaker, much has been said today about KEITH THOMSON, but considering his dedication, his Americanism, and his integrity, certainly not too much. Indeed, not enough could be said in respect to the memory of this great man.

KEITH THOMSON was my friend, and I loved him. I was in his house as he was in mine. I campaigned with him in the State of Wyoming. I know of no man in the scope of my entire acquaintance who had more dedication, more integrity, more unselfishness, more principle than did KEITH THOMSON. This was demonstrated on the field of battle and in the Halls of this Congress. The State of Wyoming, this House of Representatives, indeed our country is better off today because KEITH THOMSON passed this way.

Mr. Speaker, my wife joins with me in extending to Mrs. Thomson and her family our sincerest, and, indeed, our profound sympathy.

Remarks by Representative Short

Of North Dakota

Mr. SHORT. Mr. Speaker, I find it difficult to put words together to express my sorrow over the passing of our colleague, KEITH THOMSON. It would be difficult and repetitious for me to recite all the achievements of this outstanding young man who such a short time ago was one of us here in the House of Representatives. Loving husband and father, patriot, statesman, are attributes that truly belonged to KEITH. That he was a brilliant young man with an enviable record of accomplishment and a great future, no one can deny. It is particularly regrettable that he was not permitted to enjoy serving in the U.S. Senate after his strenuous and successful efforts to become elected.

Because we grew up in the same area of the Great Plains, KEITH and I had much in common. Because we represented people who were livestock producers, our interest in legislation before Congress was almost identical. Because of our background of association with cattle ranching, we perhaps had a feeling of understanding for each other. Whatever may have been the reason, I was drawn to KEITH when I came to Washington as a new Member in the 86th Congress. He did all of those little helpful things for me that an older Member can do for a freshman. Because of his willingness to help others, as well as his dedication to his job as a Representative of the people of Wyoming, I believe it is apparent now that he just tried to do more than the human body can endure.

My wife and I extend our sincere sympathy to Mrs. Thomson and her three boys. Their loss of a husband and father is perhaps tempered in a slight degree by the knowledge of the high esteem in which KEITH was held by those who knew him best.

Remarks by Representative Teague

Of Texas

Mr. TEAGUE. Mr. Speaker, along with all other Members who had the good fortune to know him well, I was saddened by the sudden and unexpected death of our colleague, the Honorable E. KEITH THOMSON, who had been elected as a Member of the U.S. Senate beginning with the 87th Congress.

I first came to know KEITH THOMSON when he was assigned to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs. He worked closely with me during his service there and had a real and abiding interest in the welfare of our veterans. He was a hard-working member of our committee and we were all sorry to lose him when he was reassigned to the Committee on Appropriations.

He had a distinguished war record when he commanded the 2d Battalion, 362d Infantry Regiment of the 91st Division during World War II. In addition to winning the Combat Infantryman's Badge, he was awarded the Purple Heart, Legion of Merit, Bronze Star for heroic achievement in action, and the Italian Cross of Valor.

To his lovely wife and his three sons I extend my deepest sympathy in their great loss and feel that all of us who were privileged to know him share in this loss as well.

Remarks by Representative Cramer

Of Florida

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, it is difficult for me to speak of the passing of our colleague, KEITH THOMSON. We first came to Congress together back in the 84th Congress. I worked with him on many matters, and was deeply appreciative of his profound knowledge of happenings in Congress. He had a deep and sincere interest in the welfare of his country as well as his great State of Wyoming. He had a magnificent dedication to service, as was evidenced by the many hours of overtime he worked at his duties in Congress.

The country and his State have lost a great, dedicated public servant, and I was shocked at the news of his untimely passing just as he was reaching another high rung in the ladder of his success.

I join his many friends and colleagues in extending deep sympathy to his wife and family. Their loss is shared by all who knew and worked with him.

Proceedings
in the
United States Senate

Proceedings in the Senate

TUESDAY, *January 3, 1961.*

Mr. McGEE. Mr. President, I regret to announce the death of Senator-elect KEITH THOMSON, of Wyoming. He died on the 9th of December, of a heart attack, rather soon after his election to the Senate.

Mr. President, I send to the desk a resolution, and ask that it be read.

The VICE PRESIDENT. The resolution will be reported.

The legislative clerk read the resolution (S. Res. 8), as follows:

Resolved, That the Senate has heard with profound sorrow and deep regret the announcement of the death of Hon. KEITH THOMSON, late a Senator-elect from the State of Wyoming.

Resolved, That the Secretary communicate these resolutions to the House of Representatives and transmit a copy thereof to the family of the deceased.

Resolved, That as a further mark of respect to the memory of the deceased, the Senate, at the conclusion of its business today, do now adjourn.

Mr. MANSFIELD. Mr. President, I move that the Senate stand in adjournment until 12 o'clock noon tomorrow.

The motion was agreed to and (at 2 o'clock and 44 minutes p.m.) the Senate adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, January 4, 1961, at 12 o'clock meridian.

WEDNESDAY, *January 4, 1961.*

A message from the House of Representatives, by Mr. Bartlett, one of its reading clerks, communicated to the Senate the intelligence of the death of Hon. KEITH THOMSON, late a Representative from the State of Wyoming, and transmitted the resolutions of the House thereon.

Remarks by Senator Hickey

Of Wyoming

Mr. HICKEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed the statement prepared by the senior Senator from Wyoming [Mr. McGee], in tribute to the late KEITH THOMSON.

STATEMENT BY SENATOR MCGEE

I wish to add my voice to the many in both Houses of the Congress in tribute to the late KEITH THOMSON, former Congressman and Senator-elect from my State of Wyoming.

The demise of KEITH THOMSON came as a double blow to the State of Wyoming, for it meant that we lost not only one of the most successful political figures in our State's history, but that we also lost one of our most outstanding State citizens.

That destiny decreed an end to KEITH THOMSON's career of public service at such an early time in his life—a life that was characterized by relentless drive and energy—was difficult to understand.

A native son of Wyoming and a graduate of her State university, KEITH THOMSON's personal and political careers were meteoric. As an infantry officer in the Second World War, he was the youngest battalion commander in the Army.

As his party's standard bearer, he rapidly rose from the ranks of the State legislature in Wyoming to her Congressman for three terms and just previous to his death won election to the U.S. Senate.

His untimely death came as a great shock to all who knew KEITH THOMSON. Even his most ardent political foe would never question his dedication to fight for what he believed in and his refusal to waver from his principles. I believe I speak for the whole State of Wyoming when I say that our

State lost one of its most remarkably successful public servants when we lost KEITH THOMSON.

Mr. HICKEY. Mr. President, I wish today to pay tribute to an outstanding citizen of Wyoming and of the Nation, a man whom I was honored to count as a friend for many years.

It was a real tragedy when, on December 9 last, death suddenly struck down KEITH THOMSON, who, had he lived, would occupy the seat I now hold in the U.S. Senate; his sudden demise was a tragedy for his country and his State, as well as for his devoted family and his many friends.

Mr. THOMSON was born in Newcastle, Wyo., on February 8, 1919. He attended the University of Wyoming, graduating in law in 1941. That same year he entered the Army, where he had a brilliant career and became the youngest battalion commander in the U.S. Army. His decorations include the Purple Heart, the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star Medal for heroic achievements in action, and the Italian Cross of Valor. Returning from the war, he established a law practice in Cheyenne, Wyo., and the next year was named by the Jaycees as the outstanding young man in the community. In 1951 he was elected to the Wyoming Legislature to represent Laramie County, and in 1954 he was sent to Congress, where he served for three terms. He was elected by a handsome majority to the U.S. Senate in November of 1960, the month before he died.

I knew KEITH THOMSON as a lawyer in Cheyenne, as a member of veterans' organizations, as an alumnus of the University of Wyoming, as a Member of Congress when I was Governor of Wyoming, and as a friend. I join with the multitude of those who mourn his passing and who extend deep sympathy to his wife and three sons. We have all suffered a great loss, but his family will find consolation in the knowledge that he leaves a fine and proud record of service to his country and his State.

Mr. President, as I sat here this afternoon, listening to the high tributes being paid to the late Senator from Missouri,

the Honorable Thomas C. Hennings, Jr., I thought of what might have been had the Almighty permitted KEITH THOMSON to serve in the Senate for the term for which he was elected. I am sure that the many accolades, statements, and reverences that were made this afternoon would have been well stated in his behalf.

Because he was such a great citizen of Wyoming, and a native of Wyoming, I ask unanimous consent to insert in the Record, a house joint memorial introduced by the entire membership of the House of Representatives, and the Senate, of the State of Wyoming in behalf of the career of this young man, whose 41 years had been devoted to Wyoming.

I am certain, therefore, that this resolution, which was introduced by the entire membership of both bodies, is testimony to the honor, respect, and devotion which the people of Wyoming had for this young man, as expressed by their representatives, irrespective of their political philosophies, at the most recent session of the Wyoming State Legislature.

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 5

The career of a young man of 41 has come to a close. During those comparatively short years, he has reached the supremacy of achievement in a life that would cover twice those years in experience and accomplishment of an average citizen.

His humble beginning as a cowboy, soon became obscured by his appearance in World War II as the youngest and ablest combat infantry officer of his rank in the entire U.S. Army. On his return to civil life, his brilliance in the legal profession brought local and national recognition. His vision and talent formed one of the greatest industries of Wyoming, which he developed into a great enterprise that still is one of the largest in our State. He entered the field of politics with equal success—became legislator—Congressman for three terms—then U.S. Senator-elect by one of the greatest tributes ever paid by an appreciative electorate in this State. National recognition of his talents was of such magnitude that many offers for his services were made—and refused—for he had become dedicated to service of Wyoming and the cause of private enterprise.

He drove himself relentlessly each day and night to justify the confidence of his electorate. He once said, "To be a good Congressman requires 18 hours a day," and he gave that, and more. Pos-

sibly that is why we are sorrowing together today in a loss of a friend who meant much to the State and the Nation.

Truly a great man, who has given every ounce of devotion, and application of his brilliant mind to the multiple problems that confront our Republic, has laid his life on the altar of sacrifice for those he so ably represented.

His keen mind, that grasped instantly the tactics of military warfare, of litigation, and of national policies is now at rest. We have lost one who had compassion and kindness, firmness and conviction—one who expressed the thoughts and ideals of people from all walks of life—because he had served in all of them in his meteoric career from cowboy to U.S. Senator-elect.

We wonder how Divine Providence could strike down one who had reached a plateau of his career that looked forward to a distant horizon of realization of his objectives. Some day we will know. Suffice it to say now that he has brought inspiration, hope, and renewed courage to those who have had their faith restored and their individual dignity honored.

Throughout this brief career, E. Keith Thomson had the support and encouragement of a lovely wife and family, for whom, with others, he has created a nation of security, promise, opportunity, and peace.

Remarks by Senator Dirksen

Of Illinois

Mr. DIRKSEN. Mr. President, when the Senate convened on January 7, and the oath was administered to the new Members of the Senate, there was one who should have been here on that day who was physically not present, but who was here in spirit. I refer to KEITH THOMSON, a longtime friend of mine from Wyoming, who on the 8th of November of last year was the choice of a very substantial number of the electorate of that sovereign State when he was elected to the U.S. Senate by a majority of 17,000 votes.

That wise old man, Solomon, caused Agur, the son of Jacob, to say that there were four things he did not know. One was the way of an eagle in the air; another was the way of a serpent upon the rock; still a third was the way of a ship in the midst of the sea; and a fourth was the way of a man with a maid.

But there is still another which is quite difficult to understand, and we know so little about it. It is that a young man, with a whole vista of life stretched out before him, should be stricken down when there was so much to be done and so much for which to live.

KEITH THOMSON should have been here on our opening day to raise his hand and take the oath as a Senator of the United States from the State of Wyoming; and what a magnificent person he really was. As has been indicated, he was only 22 years old when he became the youngest battalion commander in an infantry brigade in the 91st Division in World War II. Having been a soldier, having been an enlisted man and an officer, I know what it takes and I know what it means, at age 22, to command a battalion of infantry in battle.

The service he rendered for his country in that conflict over a period of almost 5 years is best attested by the large number of decorations he received for distinguished and valorous conduct and service.

KEITH THOMSON came back from the conflict to practice law and to enter into an extraordinary number of civic activities which in themselves distinguished him as a truly unselfish, civic-minded young man. Thereafter, he was elected to the 84th, 85th, and 86th Congresses, where he made a durable and outstanding record.

Thereafter he became a candidate for the U.S. Senate. In October of 1960, I went to Wyoming to assist him and to do some television shows and to make some speeches in his behalf. I remember the evening we sat in the little town of Worland. He seemed so confident, so vigorous, and so completely certain that he would win a victory. When the tumult and the shouting died, and the captains and the political kings departed, he had won by a majority of 17,000.

I was still with him when he was making plans. He was expressing his committee preferences to me, and he was shaping his course as if he would live forever. What a great way it is to look out upon life. His plans, his dreams, and his hopes were just as rugged as the mountains of Wyoming and just as spacious as its valleys that he crossed in his victory quest.

As late as the 7th of December of last year, he wrote me at great length to confirm our conversations which we had out there, and he enclosed copies of some of the very eloquent letters which had reached him as a result of the vigorous campaign he made. At that very moment, his beloved and gracious family were in Washington, making plans for his advent to the Senate, because that would be a red letter day in his life.

It was on December 10, without warning, without any premonition, that the dread and clammy pain that strikes the human heart and halts the flow of lifegiving blood, was upon him like the silent, unheralded killer that it is, and all

that was mortal of KEITH THOMSON came that day to an end, after 41 years of a life filled to overflowing with activity, achievement, and service.

Mr. President, what does one say about these amazing fortuities which we behold from time to time? How shall one comprehend the termination of a young life when there is so much for which to live—a lovely family and a country to which he was devoted, service in which he found satisfaction, and even life itself? How tragic that it should come in that season of the year when the animation of the Christmas spirit, which somehow reenergizes all mankind at that time, was bringing a great surge of joy, good will, and happiness, and pervaded every nook and cranny of the universe. Why is it that a young heart should be stilled, a vigorous mind rendered insensible, eloquent lips should be silenced, and the fruitful activity of a questing soul should be brought to an end?

Well, Mr. President, there was a man long ago who seemed to make it understandable. His name was Paul. He was a magnificent missioner, an eloquent preacher, and a man of unshakable faith. He also was most diligent in writing to his associates and to people where he had crusaded. He it was who wrote:

> For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.

Mr. President, it is just that simple when we think about KEITH THOMSON, 41 years old, a great soldier and a great public servant, who had to come to an untimely end. It is not given to us to choose the appointed hour. There is an ordained time for all things, and a season for every purpose. We shall not fully know or understand or appreciate why, at two score years and one, KEITH THOMSON should have to be denied the victory won, for which he had labored so earnestly. But his labors for his community, his State, his country, and his fellowmen shall not have been in vain. They are durable; they will live. The fruits of those great

labors did not die and will not fade away. Like his immortal spirit, they will carry on.

In this memorial service we remember his gracious and charming wife, Thyra Thomson. She did so much in his behalf. What a companion and helpmate she really was. How she helped him at every stage in his public career. To her we extend our sincere sympathy as we remember another young lawyer who was denied the privilege of holding up his hand in this Chamber on the third of January and taking the oath as a Senator, because of that malady which strikes down more often than any other malady with which we are familiar.

Remarks by Senator Case

Of South Dakota

Mr. CASE. Mr. President, KEITH THOMSON was born at Newcastle, Wyo., about 40 miles west of where I live. His early years were spent in the western hills of South Dakota and Wyoming. Part of his life was spent in South Dakota. Many people in the immediate vicinity of Spearfish and Belle Fourche, S. Dak., at the edge of the Black Hills, remember KEITH THOMSON personally.

Mr. President, to those of us in South Dakota who knew him, it seems unbelievable that so suddenly he should be stricken and taken from our midst.

I do not know that I have talked with anyone who was present immediately at the time when KEITH was taken. But, in any event, I know that KEITH THOMSON would meet every situation with courage, and would go forward unafraid.

He had an unusual heritage in his love of his country. It was my privilege to go to the Arlington National Cemetery when KEITH was laid away. I noted with interest that he was buried in an area where there are many graves marked with the family name, Thomson. So he had a heritage of forebears who distinguished themselves in the military service of their country.

As the distinguished minority leader has already stated, KEITH THOMSON received many decorations for his service during the 5 years he was with the 91st Division. Those decorations included the Combat Infantryman's Badge, the Purple Heart, the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star Medal for heroic conduct in action, and the Italian Cross of Valor.

As commander of an Italian infantry regiment in the 91st Division, KEITH THOMSON knew the long march through mud and the other tortures the 91st Division suffered in Italy.

Some years ago I heard one of the infantry corps commanders say that when it came to the awarding of honors or recognition, he thought the infantryman was the forgotten man of World War II. The glamour of the war went to the airmen and to the sailors. But there was a side of World War II that involved drudgery, lonely nights, and the real shot of battle. That was what the infantryman experienced; and the 91st Division went through that, particularly in Italy.

KEITH went through it; and he returned with his love of his country intensified. He wanted to serve it in peace, as well as in war.

In his first year of the practice of law in Wyoming, he received the junior chamber of commerce award as the outstanding young man. He was president of the alumni association of the University of Wyoming. In those ways and in other ways he received the plaudits of those who knew him.

Mr. President, I have talked with my colleague, Representative Berry, of the Second Congressional District of South Dakota, about KEITH THOMSON'S service in the House of Representatives. I am only faithful to what Representative Berry has told me when I say that he thinks that in KEITH THOMSON the State of Wyoming and the Nation had a real public servant. Representative Berry looked forward to great things in the service of KEITH THOMSON as a Member of the U.S. Senate.

It was a great tragedy—one which I have not been able satisfactorily to explain—when KEITH THOMSON was stricken. But, Mr. President, usefulness in life on this earth is not always measured by length of life here. Every day that KEITH THOMSON served in the Armies of the United States and every day that he served in public office in the State of Wyoming, in the State Legislature, and in the Congress of the United States, he proved his devotion to the causes of peace as well as to the urgencies of wartime service.

If the people of Wyoming could speak today, I am sure they would say they had faith in KEITH THOMSON and they

appreciate his service. The outpouring of votes he received last November was eloquent testimony to their recognition of his worth.

It is a source of great regret to us that KEITH THOMSON is not a Member of this Congress and of the Senate. To those of us who knew him, to the people of Wyoming, and to the people of the western part of South Dakota, his life will always stand as that of a man who served with thorough dedication in whatever opportunities for service come to him, whether in peace or in war.

To Mrs. Thomson and their three brave boys, who have lost their father, Mrs. Case and I wish to extend, at this time, our sincere sympathy; and we hope that the record of the illustrious life he led will assuage some of their sorrow in the lonely days they will experience from time to time.

Remarks by Senator Curtis

Of Nebraska

Mr. CURTIS. Mr. President, I rise to pay tribute to a distinguished legislator who has had an outstanding and a most unusual record in the defense of his country. I wish to pay tribute to KEITH THOMSON as a fine citizen, as a fighter, and as one with a great capacity for friendship.

Perhaps the question asked most commonly in connection with the lives of all persons is "Why?" In the case of KEITH THOMSON, his State elevated him to membership in the U.S. Senate; he won the prize. Yet he was denied the opportunity to become a part of this body and to serve here. The question is, "Why?"

That question has been asked through all the ages. The only answer is that the great guiding and creative force, the mind that keeps the stars in their places, the author of all natural laws, does have, and has had since the very beginning of time, another place, another sphere, where men exist and serve.

So, Mr. President, today we pay tribute to the public service of KEITH THOMSON. We extend our heartfelt sympathy to Mrs. Thomson and their three boys, and we commend to them the ancient faith that they will see him again.

Remarks by Senator Javits

Of New York

Mr. JAVITS. Mr. President, we who knew KEITH THOMSON as a Member of the House of Representatives had looked forward to his coming to the Senate as a new addition of energy and vigor to the Republican side of the aisle, with tremendous pride in coming from a mountain State in which he won a great election. It was a keen disappointment to us all when his untimely passing deprived us of what we knew to be great expectations in terms of service to the Senate and to the people.

I join with my colleagues in extending deepest sympathy to his widow and to his family, and in offering them that little solace which comes from the feeling that he was very highly regarded and that in the short life which the Lord gave him to serve he served magnificently the people of the United States and the cause of peace in the world.

Remarks by Senator Keating

Of New York

Mr. KEATING. Mr. President, the untimely death of KEITH THOMSON was a tragic loss to his beloved State of Wyoming, to the Nation, and to this body, where he had been called to serve. It was a deeply felt personal loss to those of use who knew KEITH as a friend, in which number I am proud to be included.

We served together in the House of Representatives, where he exemplified the distinguished attributes of the character and mind that were to lead subsequently to his selection as a Senator from the great State of Wyoming.

KEITH THOMSON'S military record has been referred to. It was unique. It was a record of which his family and friends can always be very proud. The testimony of this record and his record as an outstanding public servant is all that we need to know to appreciate how great is the loss of KEITH THOMSON personally and, in the larger sense, as a public figure.

I wish to extend to Mrs. Thomson and his fine boys my deepest sympathy.

Remarks by Senator Kuchel

Of California

Mr. KUCHEL. Mr. President, I did not have the pleasure of knowing the late KEITH THOMSON at all well. I did know him by his excellent reputation as a man of honor and of integrity. I knew him by the great reputation which he honorably achieved by serving as an infantry officer in World War II. My wife and I knew Mr. and Mrs. Thomson somewhat, however, and saw them on occasion when their children and our daughter were attending some of the same classes in this city.

Mrs. Kuchel and I, together with all our colleagues in the Senate, extend to Mrs. Thomson and her family our most sincere sympathy and our deepest condolences. We hope very much that after the duties which the late KEITH THOMSON performed for his country in the House of Representatives and upon American battlefields abroad, all his family will take a real pride in his constant devotion to his family and to his country.

Remarks by Senator Allott

Of Colorado

Mr. ALLOTT. Some men are given a short but brilliant life—like a shooting star which, in but a moment, passes in the sky. Such a man was KEITH THOMSON. It was as though he subconsciously knew that too much time was not to be his, but in that time he would accomplish many things.

KEITH THOMSON was what we might call a typical son of the West. He began his career in a way of which many American boys dream. He was a cowboy. But, as many American boys who outgrow those dreams, KEITH THOMSON outgrew his early beginnings.

Law appealed to him and he decided to become a lawyer. He tackled this new task as he did everything in his life—with verve and energy. Then, as war loomed and became a reality, KEITH THOMSON went into this new task with all the energy so typical of him, and he became one of the youngest and ablest officers of his rank in the U.S. Army.

But, KEITH THOMSON was not content to be just another lawyer. Knowing that civic accomplishments came through an active part in politics, he entered that field.

KEITH THOMSON began his political career as so many of our national legislators have, by entering State politics. Then larger fields called, and with the confidence he engendered in everything he did, he was elected by his neighbors and friends to the House of Representatives where he served for three terms. Here, he drove himself as relentlessly as he had in every past endeavor. His first and foremost thought was to keep this Nation strong and free, and as a member of the House Subcommittee on Defense Appropriations, he never spared himself from the tasks at hand.

His State of Wyoming recognized his hard work and talents and elected him to the U.S. Senate. Before him seemed to

lie many years of selfless work in behalf of his State and country.

But, then, like the shooting star, his pathway ended suddenly. His meteoric career was cut short, and with his death the Nation lost a man whose devotion knew no bounds nor his hours any end when it came to serving the people and his country.

It is difficult to understand sometimes why such a promising young man, at the apex of his career, must be called by a Higher Power. But in leaving, he has left behind him a life whose inspiration to others will always be remembered.

The loss of KEITH THOMSON is a loss to the Nation as a whole. His loss to his family at the early age of 41 is a great tragedy.

I know that only time will heal this sorrow. Mrs. Allott and I extend our deepest sympathy to Mrs. Thomson and his family in the tragedy which has brought sorrow to all of us.

Remarks by Senator Dworshak

Of Idaho

Mr. DWORSHAK. Mr. President, I join with my colleagues today in paying tribute to the late KEITH THOMSON, who was elected last November to a Senate term after serving three terms in the House of Representatives. His tragic passing caused widespread grief throughout eastern Idaho where he was well known. With a delegation of Wyoming constituents, he attended, on December 7, 1960, a conference at Idaho Falls, Idaho, sponsored by the Bureau of Reclamation and the Army Engineer Corps, to discuss water resource projects of interest to our two States. He was very happy at that time because of the exceptionally fine race he had made for the senatorial seat, and was looking forward eagerly to the opportunity to serve his State in the Senate.

In his short span of twoscore years, KEITH THOMSON had achieved an enviable record of service in World War II and in various activities which provided an opportunity to use his unusual talents and his dynamic leadership. It is most unfortunate that Wyoming and the Nation have lost the dedicated services of this outstanding American. He had upheld the highest traditions of the Republican Party and was destined to become one of the party's ablest leaders in the Senate. I extend the condolences of the people of my State to Mrs. Thomson and their three sons who have a rich heritage in the achievements of an illustrious father.

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